

## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:-

1. A mirrored data storage system comprising a mirror volume manager for managing the storage of data on, and the retrieval of data from, a plurality of mirror facets of at least one mirrored data storage volume, said plurality of mirror facets comprising a first mirror facet local to the mirror volume manager and a second mirror facet remote from the mirror volume manager and connected to the mirror volume manager by a communications link, wherein in response to a request to store data the mirror volume manager performs a synchronous write of the data to be stored to the first mirror facet whereupon it reports completion of said request, and an asynchronous write of the data to be stored, buffered if necessary, to the second mirror facet.
2. A mirrored data storage system according to claim 1 wherein the data to be stored is always buffered.
3. A mirrored data storage system according to claim 1 wherein a data storage buffer is provided local to said mirror volume manager for buffering said data to be stored.
4. A mirrored data storage system according to claim 3 wherein the data to be stored is stored in said data storage buffer until completion of the asynchronous write.
5. A mirrored data storage system according to claim 1 wherein said communications link has variable latency and bandwidth.
6. A mirrored data storage system according to claim 1 wherein said communications link uses an internet protocol.
7. A mirrored data storage system according to claim 1 wherein said communications link is over the Internet.
8. A mirrored data storage system according to claim 1 wherein at least one of said mirror facets comprises disk-based storage.
9. A mirrored data storage system according to claim 1 wherein at least one of said

mirror facets comprises a plurality of data storage disks.

10. A mirrored data storage system according to claim 1 wherein at least one of said mirror facets comprises a RAID system.

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11. A mirrored data storage system according to claim 1 wherein more than one local mirror facet is provided.

12. A mirrored data storage system according to claim 1 wherein more than one remote  
10 mirror facet is provided.